

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A semi-trailer sidewall construction, comprising:
a horizontally aligned base rail;
a horizontally aligned top rail;

a plurality of vertical posts coupled between the top and ~~bottom~~ base rails at spaced apart intervals along a length of the top and ~~bottom~~ base rails, the vertical posts including first and second thicknesses, the first thickness being less than the second thickness, the first post thickness defined by a distance between recessed portions formed in opposing inside and outside primary surfaces of the posts;

a plurality of outside panels coupled between the top and base rails, separate outside panels being coupled to pairs of vertical post within the spaced apart intervals; and

a plurality of inside panels coupled between the top and ~~bottom~~ base rails, separate inside panels being coupled to pairs of vertical posts within the spaced apart intervals;

wherein the outside and inside panels are spaced apart a distance defined by ~~[[a]]~~ the first thickness of the posts.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the outside panels are coupled to the posts in a non-overlapping arrangement relative to adjacent outside panels.

4. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the inside panels are coupled to the posts in a non-overlapping arrangement relative to adjacent inside panels.

5. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein an inward facing primary surface of the inside panels is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the posts that extends inward most in the trailer.

6. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein an outward facing primary surface of the outside panels is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the posts that faces outward.

7. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising a spacer member positioned between opposing outside and inside panel within the spaced interval, the spacer having a thickness substantially equal to the first post thickness.

8. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the vertical posts include a ~~third thickness defined by a recessed portion at an~~ flashing recess formed in a bottom end of the posts, the flashing recess being sized to receive a flashing member.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[9]] 1 wherein the recessed portions are recessed an amount substantially equal to a thickness of the inside and outside panels that are mounted in the respective recessed portions.

11. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the second post thickness is defined by a distance between an outer most surface and an inner most primary surface of the posts.

12. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the lower rail includes a plate member, the plate member being coupled between the inside and outside panels.

13. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 12, wherein the plate member has a width/height of about 18 to about 30 inches.

14. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.25 to 2 inches.

15. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.5 inches.

16. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the first post thickness is about 0.4 inches, the second post thickness is about 0.5 inches, and the outside and inside panels have a thickness of about 0.04 to 0.05 inches.

17. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising an intermediate horizontal rail extending between two of the plurality of posts in the spaced interval vertically between the top and ~~bottom~~ base rails, the intermediate rail including inside and outside primary surfaces and a reduced thickness portion substantially equal to the post first thickness.

18. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim 17, wherein a portion of the intermediate rail is exposed adjacent the inside or outside panels, includes a hollow core, and includes ~~[[a]]~~ an aperture formed in the inside or outside primary surface that provides access into the hollow core.

19-38. (canceled)

39. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, further comprising an drain structure configured to provide a fluid passage that extends from the spaced apart area defined between the outside and inside panels to an area outside the sidewall construction.

40. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is a channel formed in the base rail.

41. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is an aperture formed in a bottom edge of one of the inside or outside panels.

42. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is a channel defined between one of the outside or inside panels and the base rail by a spacer member positioned between the base rail and the one outside or inside panel.

43. (previously presented) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein one of the outside panels and an opposing one of the inside panels are coupled to the post with a plurality of fasteners, each fastener extending through the outside and inside panels and one of the vertical posts.

44. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[10]] 43, wherein the plurality of ~~fasters~~ fasteners extend through the recessed ~~portion~~ portions of the vertical post.

45. (new) A semi-trailer sidewall construction, comprising:
a vertically oriented post including first and second thicknesses, the first thickness being less than the second thickness and defined by a distance between recessed portions formed in opposing inside and outside primary surfaces of the post;

an outside panel coupled to the post within the recessed portion formed in the outside primary surfaces of the post; and

an inside panel coupled to the post within the recessed portion formed in the inside primary surface of the post;

wherein the outside and inside panels are spaced apart a distance defined by the first thickness of the post.

46. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein an inward facing primary surface of the inside panel is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the post that extends inward most in the trailer.

47. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein an outward facing primary surface of the outside panel is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the post that faces outward.

48. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, further comprising a spacer member positioned between opposing outside and inside panels, the spacer having a thickness substantially equal to the first post thickness.

49. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the vertical post include a flashing recess formed at a bottom end of the post, the flashing recessed being sized to receive a flashing member.

50. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the recessed portions are recessed an amount substantially equal to a thickness of the inside and outside panels.

51. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the second post thickness is defined by a distance between an outer most surface and an inner most primary surface of the posts.

52. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.25 to about 2 inches.

53. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.5 inches.

54. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the first post thickness is about 0.4 inches, the second post thickness is about 0.5 inches, and the outside and inside panels have a thickness of about 0.04 to about 0.05 inches.

55. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, further comprising a drain structure configured to provide a fluid passage that extends from between the spaced the outside and inside panels to an area outside the sidewall construction.

56. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 55, wherein the drain structure is an aperture formed in a bottom edge of one of the inside or outside panels.

57. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 45, wherein the outside and inside panels are coupled to the post with a plurality of fasteners, each fastener extending through the outside and inside panels and the vertical post.

58. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 57, wherein the plurality of fasteners extend through the recessed portions of the post.